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**From:** Deegan, Dave [Deegan.Dave@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/15/2020 3:44:37 PM  
**To:** R1 Executives All [R1ExecutivesALL@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Daily News Clips: Morning Edition, 10/15/20

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**From:** Kibilov, Nicholas  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 11:44:33 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** AO OPA OMR CLIPS  
**Subject:** Daily News Clips: Morning Edition, 10/15/20

**Daily News Clips: October 15, 2020 (morning edition)**

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MorningAgClips: Trump makes water demand of farms priority for new office

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**"A Little Bit Concerned": Trump Looks to Boost Iowa Support**

[https://www.thenationalherald.com/usa\\_politics/arthro/a\\_little\\_bit\\_concerned\\_trump\\_looks\\_to\\_boost\\_iowa\\_support-1020633/](https://www.thenationalherald.com/usa_politics/arthro/a_little_bit_concerned_trump_looks_to_boost_iowa_support-1020633/)

By Associated Press  
15/10/2020

DES MOINES, Iowa — President Donald Trump on Wednesday sought to shore up support from constituencies that not so long ago he thought he had in the bag: big business and voters in the red state of Iowa.

In a morning address to business leaders, he expressed puzzlement that they would even consider supporting his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, arguing that his own leadership was a better bet for a strong economy. Later, the president held his third campaign rally in three nights, this time in Iowa, a state he won handily in 2016 but where Biden is making a late push.

Trump claimed to be leading in the most recent poll he saw. "For me to only be up six, I'm a little bit concerned," he asserted. Multiple polls have shown a much closer race.

Biden, for his part, held a virtual fundraiser from Wilmington, Delaware, and delivered pretaped remarks to American Muslims. He did not have any public campaign events, unusual for just 20 days out from Election Day.

The Democratic nominee used his appearance at the fundraiser to say that Trump was trying to rush through Amy Coney Barrett, his nominee for the Supreme Court, to help his efforts to repeal the Obama health care law, calling that "an abuse of power."

Biden was expected to spend much of the day preparing for a town-hall-style TV appearance in battleground Pennsylvania on Thursday, which was to have been the night of the second presidential debate.

Instead, the candidates will have dueling town halls on network television — Trump's in Miami and sponsored by NBC News, Biden's in Philadelphia and on ABC. Trump backed out of plans for the originally scheduled presidential faceoff after debate organizers shifted the format to a virtual event following Trump's coronavirus diagnosis.

Trump used his economic address Wednesday to play up his administration's commitment to lowering taxes and deregulation of industry, and he didn't hide his frustration with signs that some in the business community are tilting to Biden.

"I know I'm speaking to some Democrats, and some of you are friends of mine," Trump said in a virtual address to the Economic Clubs of New York, Florida, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Pittsburgh and Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Should Biden be elected, he continued, "You will see things happen that will not make you happy. I don't understand your thinking."

The former vice president has collected more than \$50 million in campaign contributions from donors in the securities and investment sectors, according to the private nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. During his decades in the Senate representing Delaware, a center for the credit card and banking industries, Biden built relationships and a voting record in the business sector that has raised suspicion on the left but provides Wall Street with a measure of ease at the prospect of a Biden administration.

After being sidelined by the coronavirus, Trump resumed a breakneck schedule this week, with aides saying he is expected to travel and host campaign rallies every day through Nov. 3. Trump has appeared hale in his public appearances since reemerging from quarantine, though at moments during his economic address on Wednesday his voice was raspy.

His trip to Iowa comes as the state this week surpassed 100,000 coronavirus cases and has seen a recent surge in hospitalizations. The number of people being treated in Iowa hospitals for COVID-19 reached a new high Wednesday of 473 people.

Biden has tried to make Trump's handling of the pandemic, which has killed more than 215,000 Americans, the central issue of the election.

"President Trump isn't coming to the Hawkeye State to offer words of comfort to those suffering, or a helping hand to the Iowans who are out of a job, or an actual plan to get the virus under control," Biden said in a statement. "Instead, he's here to spread more lies about the pandemic and distract from his record of failure."

Officials at the Des Moines airport were told to plan for up to 10,000 people, and such Trump campaign events typically feature little to no social distancing and only spot mask wearing.

A public health emergency declared by Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds in March remains in place and requires that organizers of mass gatherings "must ensure at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) of physical distance between each group or individual attending alone."

Trump acknowledged Reynolds' presence at the rally. "Thank you, honey," he said.

Trump had an extra treat in mind for Iowa voters, drawing on one of the perquisites of his office: Ahead of his visit, Trump said he would be awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Iowa wrestling legend Dan Gable. The former University of Iowa coach won 15 NCAA team championships from 1976 to 1997.

Donning a red hat and tossing away his tie to fight off the stiff breeze on the airport tarmac, Trump made a direct appeal to the state's farmers, saying that he was responsible for \$28 billion in aid designed to help offset damage stemming from his trade war with China. "I hope you remember that on Nov. 3," Trump said.

But after years of farmers supporting him despite the trade war, some Republicans say Trump's renewable fuel policy has sown some doubt.

Trump's Environmental Protection Agency granted dozens of waivers to petroleum companies seeking to bypass congressional rules requiring the level of the corn-based fuel additive ethanol that gasoline must contain. He has recently denied more waiver requests, but the EPA's previous action removed about 4 billion gallons of ethanol demand, resulting in the closure — at least temporarily — of more than a dozen ethanol plants in Iowa.

While mostly laying low on Wednesday, Biden has stepped up campaign travel in the past week, with visits to Arizona, Nevada, Florida and Pennsylvania. The former vice president isn't introducing new themes in his pitch that he's a steady alternative to Trump. Biden and his aides believe the president's scattershot campaign messaging since his COVID-19 diagnosis proves the core of Biden's case.

Trump's return to Iowa comes as he has been forced into playing defense following a widely panned debate performance and his own coronavirus diagnosis. Republicans have raised alarm that enthusiasm among Trump's base has waned slightly after the one-two punch of those events, casting his reelection into doubt.

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### **Cummins Announces its EPA 2021 X12 and X15 Series Engines**

<https://www.fireengineering.com/2020/10/15/494860/cummins-announces-its-epa-2021-x12-and-x15-series-engines/#gref>

10.15.20

COLUMBUS, IN—Cummins Inc. (NYSE: CMI) launched its Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2021 emissions-compliant X12 and X15 series engines. These heavy-duty diesel engines from Cummins were built on the proven architecture of its EPA 2017 versions and are designed for customers running Class 8 trucks in the North American on-highway market.

“Cummins’ 2021 heavy-duty products were designed with three core deliverables in mind: increased uptime, better overall total cost of ownership, and improved drivability,” says Brett Merritt, vice president of the Cummins On-highway Engine Business. “By delivering on these focus areas, Cummins’ products will offer better performance for the customer’s bottom line.”

Cummins currently provides an oil drain interval (ODI) of 75,000 miles for operators achieving 7 or more miles per gallon with the X12 and X15 Efficiency engines. In 2021, customers averaging between 5 and 7 mpg will see their ODI with the EPA 2021 X15 Performance series engine extended by 10,000 miles. And to further increase uptime for customers, Cummins has matched the service schedule for both the fuel filter and oil changes on both the X12 and X15 series products, so customers won't have to plan maintenance separately.

For better overall total cost of ownership (TCO), Cummins made the 2021 powertrains more fuel-efficient than ever. In 2020, Cummins launched an EPA 2021-compliant product with the X15 Efficiency Series, which has demonstrated up to 3.5% better fuel economy compared to the 2019 product. In 2021, X15 Efficiency series customers with EX ratings (require Endurant HD transmission and GPS look-ahead data) stand to gain an additional 1.5% in fuel economy. Those who require more than 500 horsepower and go with an X15 Performance series can get up to 2% improved fuel economy compared to the EPA 2017 version. Customers of the X12 will also see improvements, with an up to 2.5% potential gain in base engine and a possible 1.5% further improvement with EX ratings, which will be newly available to the X12 in 2021.

The 2021 X15 Performance Series will newly offer select powertrain features that were previously unavailable above 500 horsepower. Features like SmartCoast, Predictive Cruise Control, and Predictive Road Speed Governor will be available for customers with Automated Manual powertrains in 2021.

Customers can visit the new cloud-based PowerSpec tool via [powerspecweb.cummins.com](https://powerspecweb.cummins.com) for help with vehicle spec'ing, feature descriptions and more.

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### **Trump Talks Farm Aid in Iowa**

<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/business-inputs/article/2020/10/15/president-declares-backing-farm-re>

10/15/2020 | 6:57 AM CDT

OMAHA (DTN) -- Telling Iowans he has delivered for them on direct farm aid, trade and ethanol, President Donald Trump told a crowd in Des Moines on Wednesday that some farmers are making more money under his aid programs than they would selling their crops. He also warned of an economic collapse if his rival, Democrat Joe Biden, is elected.

Trump spoke before an estimated crowd of 10,000 people at the Des Moines Airport, reflecting his campaign style under the pandemic of pulling Air Force One right up to the crowd and walking directly on stage to speak.

Iowa and other Midwest states are in the middle of surging COVID-19 positive cases. New cases have frequently topped 1,200 a day in Iowa since early September. The state has had 102,824 positive cases and 1,498 deaths. Polk County, where Des Moines is located, has had more than 17,500 COVID-19 cases, nearly three times more positive cases than any other county in the state. Critics of the president rented a digital billboard nearby that said "Trump COVID Superspreader Event," with an arrow pointing in the rally's direction.

Iowans started voting last week.

A new poll released Wednesday of voters in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin showed Trump trailing in Wisconsin (43% to 53%) and Minnesota (41% to 52%), but leading in Iowa 50% to 44%. The poll by RG Strategies was conducted for Focus on Rural America, a group led by Iowa Democrats that began in 2017 after

Trump dominated in the rural areas of the Midwest. The poll had a survey size of 200 voters in each state and an error rate of 6.9%.

Patty Judge, Iowa's former state agriculture secretary, spearheaded Focus on Rural America. She said Wednesday that Democrats have made a far more concerted effort to address rural issues than in 2016, and it's made the upper Midwest states more competitive. Judge said rural groups have had more in-depth conversations with Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris as a result.

"And I think those efforts that we put forth, as well as the efforts of a few other groups, have made a real difference and have for the first time in a long time," Judge said. "The issues in rural America are a part of the election campaign. We hear that in the debates, both presidential, the U.S. Senate, the congressional debates. People are talking about rural America and quite truthfully, that really pleases me."

Three of the last five major polls in Iowa show the race is dead-even, according to FiveThirtyEight.com, which collects data on the various polls and also analyzes their polling accuracy. FiveThirtyEight actually shows Biden with a slight lead within the margin of error.

Trump lost Minnesota by 1.5% in 2016 and most polls show him trailing there again. Trump won Wisconsin by fewer than 23,000 votes in 2016, or less than 1%, but FiveThirtyEight shows him trailing by closer to 7% in most polls now.

In Iowa on Wednesday, Trump pointed to the Democratic poll of 200 voters showing he's up 6% in the state but complained he should be higher. Trump won Iowa by 9 percentage points in 2016.

"Nobody has ever done for Iowa and the farm belt and the farmers and all. No more estate taxes. No more anything. I saved ethanol. Ethanol is saved. For me to only be up 6(%), I'm a little bit concerned. I'll tell you that. Nobody's going to do for Iowa what I did for Iowa," Trump said.

In the midst of comments about Hunter Biden, former President Obama, Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett and his own bout with the coronavirus, Trump frequently returned back to themes of farmers and trade. Trump revisited his trade battles, saying when China targeted farmers and ranchers, "I put a 25% tariff on everything."

The tariffs, he said, were high and he took the money and gave it to farmers. USDA tapped the Commodity Credit Corp. to provide \$28 billion in Market Facilitation Program payments to farmers in 2018 and 2019. Trump said he told Secretary of State Sonny Perdue to pay the aid to farmers.

"I said that's OK, we're going to put a 25% tariff on, and the farmers are going to get \$12 billion, and then they're going to get \$16 billion. OK, and we're going to give that money to our farmers. And that got our farmers even."

Trump said that early in the tariff strategy farmers, "many from Iowa," came to talk to him. Trump said he told them he was going to provide farmers with a lot of money in subsidies, but the farmers pushed back and said they did not want subsidies. "All we want is a level playing field. We don't want anything. That's all we want," Trump said to a roaring crowd. "It's true. I never heard that. Most people, they don't care if we call it a subsidy, just give me the cash, give me the money ... The farmers are unbelievable -- the heart of this nation. They said they don't want a subsidy, and I'll never forget it."

Trump added some farmers were making more money with the MFP aid. "I shouldn't tell you this, because they don't like it. But some farmers were making more money the way he (Perdue) was doing it then by working their asses off," Trump said. "They were very, very happy. We took care of our farmers; no other president can do that -- no other."

Trump said ethanol was being killed before he came into office, although the EPA under his administration had approved billions of gallons of small refinery exemptions until a federal appeals court earlier this year slowed down EPA's exemption approvals. The president added that Biden has vowed to abolish fossil fuels, though Biden has declined to ban fracking.

"The Biden-Harris platform will demolish Iowa ethanol, you know, wiping out that entire industry," Trump said. "And we fought hard for it. You know, we went through the whole thing where we had no demand because of the pandemic. And we fought hard to keep it going and to keep ethanol going."

Trump touted his signature decision in 2019 to expand 15% ethanol to 12 months a year. Trump also pointed out his administration is now spending money on blender pumps for ethanol. Perdue came to Iowa and Minnesota last week to announce funding for blender pumps and storage tanks at fuel stations for E15. "Because, you know, with the additional ethanol -- the additional power -- some people say make them buy new pumps. No, I don't want you to buy new pumps if you don't have to."

Later, in attacking Biden again, Trump said his challenger would triple or quadruple taxes, which would lead to a depression. "And one thing we learned about the farmers, they don't do well in depressions. Do we agree?"

Due to the trade disputes and the coronavirus, the Commodity Credit Corp., which was created during the Great Depression, has been used to spend nearly \$50 billion since 2018. USDA's farm income forecasts projected before the latest round of coronavirus aid that federal programs would make up roughly 38% of net farm income for 2020.

Biden's campaign released a statement on the president's trip and pointed to the nearly 100,000 coronavirus cases in the state. Biden said Trump didn't come to Iowa to aid people who have lost their jobs or otherwise been affected by the pandemic.

"Iowans whose lives have been thrown into chaos need real leadership -- not more division," Biden said. "I've seen our country through dark times before, helping rescue an economy in crisis. And I've fought for the health care protections this administration is battling in the U.S. Supreme Court to undo. We're better than this moment under President Trump -- and as president, I will bring this country together so that we can build back better."

Trump repeated that grain sales are booming under his trade policies, pointing to "the largest order of corn in the history of our country -- two weeks ago." Two separate corn sales to China in July each broke into the five largest corn export sales in U.S. history, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service, but did not make the largest single sale.

He added, "You had the largest order of soybeans in the history of our country, and the largest order of beef. But you know why, because China wants to keep me happy, that's why." July had high soybean sales for the 2020-21 crop that were double the 10-year average for July sales. Beef sales to China through August were up 113% to \$93.9 million, but offset by lower sales to Hong Kong for the first eight months of the year.

Trump ended his rally saying he should again win Iowa. "So vote because if I don't get Iowa I won't believe that one. I may never have to come back here again if I don't get Iowa. I will never be back here."

On Thursday evening, Biden and Trump were supposed to debate in a town-hall forum that was canceled. Instead, they will go head-to-head on television as Biden has a town hall on ABC and Trump has a town hall on NBC.

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## America's Soy Farmers Paralyzed by Uncertainty Over Weed Killer

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/ALLTOP-BASIC-BUSINESS-CANADA/2020/10/15/id/992092/>

Thursday, 15 October 2020 09:42 AM

A newly banned herbicide has become a crux for the world's second-largest soybean producer as U.S. farmers struggle with not knowing if they'll regain access to the long-trusted weed killer for next year's crop.

The U.S. government banned dicamba earlier this year, though there are prospects of a reprieve. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to announce this month if dicamba-based products can be used next planting season, Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in an Oct. 1 webinar with the Minnesota Farm Bureau. Those products include soybean seeds resistant to the weed killer and the herbicide itself, under brands including BASF SE's Engenia and Bayer AG's Xtend.

"We haven't had this situation we have this year where there's this uncertainty on whether or not they're going to be able to apply dicamba over the top of soybean crops," Michael Frank, who heads Nutrien Ltd.'s Ag Solutions business, said in a phone interview. "It's creating anticipation to see what EPA is going to do."

U.S. crop farmers are in the middle of harvest, gathering information on yields and whether herbicides proved effective for soybean growth in the U.S., whose output is second only to Brazil. It's also when they start deciding which agricultural chemicals to bet on for next season, affecting sales in the world's \$60-billion crop-chemical industry -- raising the stakes of the EPA's decision.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit earlier this year blocked the herbicide, arguing that the EPA ignored risks associated with the chemical drifting onto other properties and violated federal regulations when it extended licensing in October 2018 for two years. The agency criticized and later undercut the court decision, which has canceled registration for three dicamba-based products sold by BASF, Bayer and Corteva Inc.

U.S. farmers will harvest 82.3 million acres of soybeans for the 2020-2021 crop year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates. USDA data show 94% of soybeans planted in the U.S. in 2020 are genetically modified specifically to tolerate herbicides.

The American Farm Bureau Association and other industry groups advocated for continued dicamba use, arguing that most crop farmers are already familiar with it and switching to other products could jeopardize yields. Others take issue with the chemical's level of so-called volatility, a key factor for whether it could vaporize or run off into soils that don't have resistance to it, potentially damaging other crops or causing other harmful effects.

For crop-chemical makers, their brands are on the line: if dicamba gets pulled, it could mean discounting products, managing supply of alternatives and potentially stricter regulation on herbicides that are already approved.

Farmers unwilling to risk buying dicamba on fears it'll get banned may mull alternatives including 2,4-D, the active ingredient in Corteva's Enlist line of herbicides. It's among the most commonly used products and, like dicamba, is often grouped with two other chemicals -- glyphosate and glufosinate -- to protect seeds from a greater variety of weeds.

Growers would see 2,4-D as a viable substitute since it proved comparably effective against dozens of tough weeds, Morningstar analyst Seth Goldstein said in an interview. That may help Corteva, even if dicamba ultimately gets approved.

“The longer the EPA waits to make the decision, the more likely it is in my view that farmers switch anyway just due to the uncertainty,” he said. “I think farmers would rather have the certainty of a product even if they haven’t used it before.”

Corteva expects industry demand for its Enlist E3 soybean seeds, which are resistant to 2,4-D choline, glyphosate and glufosinate, will climb to more than 30% in 2021, according to company spokesman Gregg Schmidt. That follows this year’s projected 20% share of planted soybean acreage.

Nutrien’s Frank said he sees sales of Enlist soybeans increasing in 2021, though if the ban ends next year’s bestsellers will likely be Bayer’s Xtend line of products.

One chemical-resistant seed by Bayer, XtendFlex, already received final approval in September for use next year in the U.S. and Canada. The product allows tolerance to both dicamba and glufosinate, a chemical that has become popular in recent decades because of its effectiveness against newer strains of weeds that developed with the rise of genetically modified seeds. Bayer expects XtendFlex to cover 20 million soybean acres next year.

If the EPA rules against dicamba, Bayer plans to compensate farmers who bought its dicamba products, including as much as \$7 off each unit of some soybean seeds and \$40 off each unit of certain cotton seeds resistant to the herbicide. Bayer is willing to make such provisions despite being “very confident” on future prospects of its dicamba-based XtendiMax, product manager Alex Zenteno said in an interview.

“We’re willing to put a program down to help growers get that confidence if they’re feeling uncertain or unsure, or considering other options,” she said.

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### **Chemical Insights Partners with EPA to Improve the Lives of People with Asthma**

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/chemical-insights-partners-epa-improve-130000834.html>

Thu, October 15, 2020, 9:00 AM EDT

Chemical Insights offers 3D printer safety and indoor air quality training to EPA’s Asthma Community Network

Chemical Insights, an Institute of Underwriters Laboratories, has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indoor Environments Division to create awareness for people suffering from chronic lung diseases – like asthma – of the potential health risks associated with 3D printer emissions and steps they can take to reduce risk.

Based on research jointly conducted by Chemical Insights and researchers at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Chemical Insights has launched a free, four-part online educational course available on the Asthma Community Network.

The virtual course starts with an introduction to indoor air quality and chemical emission terms, walks through the research findings, and ends with best practices for reducing 3D printing risks. The four modules of the virtual course are:

Indoor Air Quality and Human Health;

The Impact of 3D Printers on Air Quality and Human Health;

The Story Behind the Research: 3D Printers & Their Emissions; and



## Strategies for Mitigating 3D Printer Emissions.

"The more informed a person is on the risks associated with poor indoor air quality and the chemical emissions derived from objects they may encounter at home, school or work, the more conscious they can become about mitigating the risks and avoiding adverse health issues. For asthma sufferers, this is essential," said Dr. Marilyn Black, vice president and senior technical advisor for Chemical Insights. "We are proud to partner with the EPA on this educational initiative to inform people with asthma and help communities move forward to deliver better asthma care and create safer technology operating environments."

"The quality of our indoor air is a major public health priority, with asthma alone affecting over 24 million Americans nationwide," said Dave Rowson, Director of EPA's Indoor Environments Division. "EPA is proud to work with Underwriters Laboratories to stay on the forefront of protecting public health. In particular, we appreciate the work Underwriters Laboratories is doing to understand and educate the public on how to best reduce potential risks from technological advances like 3D printing, which can affect the quality of air in our homes, schools, and workplaces."

Chemical Insights is committed to researching chemicals and pollutants people interact with daily and educating the public to reduce exposure and protect human health. While 3D printers, in particular, continue to gain popularity both in the industrial and consumer sectors, the research conducted by Chemical Insights and Georgia Tech reveals that 3D printers release trace amounts of more than 200 different volatile organic compounds (VOCs) during operation, many of which are known or suspected irritants and carcinogens. Additionally, many desktop 3D printers were found to generate high levels of ultrafine particles (UFPs) that, when inhaled, could lead to respiratory concerns. Wider awareness and adoption of the mitigation strategies covered in module 4 of the virtual course will help reduce risks associated with the compounds and pollutants emitted from 3D printing.

To learn more about the impacts of 3D printing on indoor air quality and human health, access the free four-part online course at Asthma Community Network - <https://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/>.

### About Chemical Insights

As an Institute of Underwriters Laboratories, we deliver the scientific insight policymakers, healthcare providers, business leaders and consumers depend on to make informed environmental health decisions. Combining the best minds, rigorous scientific research and a commitment for thorough and accurate results, Chemical Insights is improving the health of people and the planet.

Our work lets people around the world know what chemicals are in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the products we interact with every day. Our research and initiatives gives them the knowledge of exactly what those chemicals are, how they may affect human health, and how to manage their impact. Our leadership role is to provide science or knowledge to implement improved practices, alternative product design, and changes that enable safer products and healthier environments.

To learn more, please visit [chemicalinsights.org/](https://chemicalinsights.org/).

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### About Underwriters Laboratories

Underwriters Laboratories is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the UL public safety mission through the discovery and application of scientific knowledge. We conduct rigorous independent research and analyze safety data, convene experts worldwide to address risks, share knowledge through safety education and

public outreach initiatives, and develop standards to guide safe commercialization of evolving technologies. We foster communities of safety, from grassroots initiatives for neighborhoods to summits of world leaders. Our organization employs collaborative and scientific approaches with partners and stakeholders to drive innovation and progress toward improving safety, security, and sustainability, ultimately enhancing societal well-being. To learn more, visit [UL.org](http://UL.org).

View source version on businesswire.com: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20201015005166/en/>

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## **EPA Announces Guidance to Waive Toxicity Tests on Animal Skin**

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/epa-announces-guidance-to-waive-90167/>

By

Lisa Campbell

Heather Collins, M.S.

Lara Hall

15 Oct 2020

On October 7, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is requesting comments on its draft guidance that would allow registrants, in certain circumstances, to forgo testing chemicals on animal skin to determine whether a pesticide would lead to adverse effects. This new draft guidance is part of EPA's continued efforts to reduce animal testing and achieve its goal of eliminating all EPA requests for studies and EPA funding of studies on mammals by 2035.

According to EPA, the draft dermal toxicity guidance would allow applicants to request waivers for acute dermal toxicity studies on single-active ingredients used to develop end-use products. The new draft guidance also allows EPA to harmonize with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Canada, which published guidance on acute dermal toxicity waivers for both formulations and technical chemicals in 2017. The draft guidance is in addition to the final guidance for waiving acute dermal toxicity tests published by EPA in November 2016 for pesticide formulations.

In developing the guidance, EPA states that it conducted a retrospective analysis of rat acute oral and acute dermal LD50 studies for 249 active ingredients across numerous chemical classes and toxicity categories. Fumigants and rodenticides were excluded from this analysis, based on their physical state and/or anticipated exposures to them. EPA concluded that for 67 percent of the 249 technical chemicals, the results of both oral and dermal acute toxicity studies fall within the same Toxicity Category. For 32 percent of the chemicals, the oral study falls within a lower (i.e., more protective) Toxicity Category; thus, for 99 percent of the chemicals in the analysis, if the dermal study had not been available and labeling had been based only on the Toxicity Category for the oral acute toxicity study, the labeling requirements would have been equally or more protective. For the two remaining chemicals (less than 1 percent), factors other than the dermal acute toxicity may influence labeling requirements. EPA concluded that its requirements for such acute dermal toxicity studies provide little to no added value in regulatory decision making. EPA states that this guidance, when finalized, is expected to reduce the number of test animals used annually by approximately 750, as well as save EPA, industry, and laboratory resources.

EPA states that it believes the retrospective analysis fully supports the conclusion that waivers may be granted for acute dermal toxicity studies for pesticide technical chemicals, except for fumigants and rodenticides. Waivers may be accepted for fumigants and rodenticides on a case-by-case basis with appropriate scientific rationale. Once the guidance is issued in final form, EPA states that applicants who wish to pursue waivers for these studies would submit formal waiver requests as part of the registration application through existing processes and cite the guidance as support for the requests. EPA maintains the ability to request acute dermal toxicity data on a case-by-case basis, but states that it anticipates granting the waiver in most cases.

Comments on the draft guidance are due on or before November 9, 2020, and can be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0093.

EPA also announced the launch of its new [webpage](#) that provides metrics and strategies for reducing and replacing animal testing, including links and resources to all pertinent guidance and work plans tied to the larger [Toxicology in the 21st Century Initiative](#) across the federal government. The [directive](#), issued by EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler in September 2019, calls for EPA to reduce animal testing and to reduce funding 30 percent by 2025 and eliminate it by 2035. EPA states that its actions to date to support these efforts include:

In September 2019, EPA [announced \\$4.25 million in funding](#) for five universities to research and develop alternative test methods for evaluating chemical safety.

In December 2019, EPA [convened a conference](#) for achieving reduced animal testing in chemical safety research and [updated its list of New Approach Methodologies \(NAM\)](#) that could be used in EPA's work under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act, including adding 21 new test guidelines related to health and ecological effects and six additional EPA policies that reduce the use of animal testing.

In June 2020, EPA [released a NAMs work plan](#) that details how EPA plans to develop, test, and apply chemical safety testing approaches without the use of animals.

In February 2020, EPA [issued final guidance](#) waiving the subacute dietary testing of pesticides on birds when the additional information is unnecessary to support a pesticide registration decision, which is expected to save 720 test animals annually.

In July 2020, EPA [announced new guidance to reduce unnecessary testing on fish](#), which is expected to save 240 test animals annually.

EPA will host its [Second Annual Conference on the State of the Science on Development and Use of NAMs for Chemical Safety Testing](#) virtually on October 19 and 20, 2020. Additional information on EPA's efforts to reduce animal testing is available [here](#).

[\[View source.\]](#)

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## Climate Change Doesn't Need Your Opinion

<https://www.laprogressive.com/climate-change-doesnt-need-your-opinion/>

15 Oct 2020

The craft of a stage magician is primarily distraction. The performer gets you to "look over here" so that you don't see what he is doing over there. Our current president is very nearly a master magician in how he manipulates the media and uses Twitter to keep up a constant distraction so that the news media never has a moment to notice the more substantive things that he is doing to accomplish his economic [oligarchic](#) goals.

Let me spell this out: if Donald Trump has a core belief, it is just this – that the very wealthy should be allowed to soak up an ever larger amount of the wealth of the nation and it doesn't matter if you have to destroy the environment or bankrupt schools or take away health care from tens of millions of people in order to do that.

For most of the past three years, Trump has created insane diversions through his own antics, but the arrival of the coronavirus has been a smokescreen that exceeds anything that he could have manufactured on his own.

I would point out to you that once we had to close businesses and churches because of the administration's failure to offer wide spread virus testing in early February, Congress quickly passed a \$2 trillion aid package which includes \$1200 per adult subsidy, but the majority of that \$2 trillion went to large corporations.

And, true to form for our Clementine Caligula, he immediately fired the official who had been selected to provide oversight for these funds, Glenn Fine, because it was his job to make certain that these funds were used properly and that none of them were just funneled into Trump's own businesses and the businesses of his political donors.

I would remind you that when Obama proposed a stimulus package in response to the 2008 economic crisis, a package that was less than half this amount, it was passed without a single Republican vote.

This \$2 trillion package was passed with bipartisan support but now we will be left to wonder where all of the money goes. I never would have dreamed that the United States would come to this point, a point where we are somehow tolerating this level of criminal theft from the Oval office, but folks, we have the equivalent of a third world country.

#### For Trump's EPA, Back to Normal Means More Pollution

Even before the Coronavirus lockdown, the Trump administration had rolled back over 100 EPA regulations regarding clean air, water, and waste, especially waste from coal and other mining industries.

As dangerous as this pandemic is, and this is no exaggeration, these environmental regulation rollbacks, these regulations that have protected us from pollution, this will kill more people than Covid-19. And Trump is doing this on purpose, for profit.

This kind of economic domestic terrorism is not unique to Trump. We saw this in the buildup to the invasion of Iraq. The paranoid conspiracy theorists were trying to insist that the Bush administration had somehow planned the 9-11 attacks in order to justify invading Iraq. That was obviously false because there was no one in the Bush administration who was clever enough, by half, to come up with a plan as complicated as that.

However, they had been trying to cook up an excuse for invading Iraq before 9-11 and when that fateful day arrived, they used it as a too convenient excuse.

Just as the coronavirus wasn't cooked up in some military lab to use as a chemical weapon, nor was it sent by God to punish people for watching the Tiger King series or anything else that might appeal to your mind as deserving punishment. It was an event of nature, as pandemics always are . . . it is just that Trump and the Tiger King make it seem worse.

This writing was prepared for Easter 2020. The virtual Easter sermons that filled the internet mostly take the gospel stories quite literally, promising eternal life because Jesus was bodily raised from the dead. As you know, I take those accounts to be entirely metaphorical, almost like the ending of V is for Vendetta in which V reminds the tyrannical government officials who are about to kill him that they cannot kill an idea . . . the Roman government killed the historical Jesus but they could not crucify his message . . . it took Evangelical Christians to do that!

The real message of resurrection, the real point of it so far as I am concerned, is still the powerful awareness that you can kill a messenger, but you cannot kill a message.

The EPA, which had been busy since the Nixon administration in trying to balance the interests of business, profit, employment, and manufacturing with the need to protect our environment from lethal levels of pollution, has been, effectively, crucified under the Trump administration.

But there are those who are praying for a resurrection. Just as Neil DeGrasse Tyson is not the world's leading astrophysicist but he is the world's best known spokesperson for astrophysics, the world's best known environmental activist is not a scientist at all, she isn't even old enough to go to college yet and she has been missing a whole lot of high school for the past four years.

In some ways, it is an act, when the snarling, angry, teenaged climate activist, Greta Thunberg, addresses public gatherings. In real life, she seems to be a very sweet, charming, and astonishingly bright high school student. But she has become quite media savvy during her short career as a consciousness raising public spokesperson for the earth.

She understands what it takes to make a splash in the media is a perfect soundbite, but her real plan is not just to become famous and to see these soundbites show up in a single day's news cycle. She is trying to get the adults in the room to pay attention to the science.

We all saw clips of her "How dare you?" speech at the United Nations last September where she virtually spit out the words: This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school, on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money, and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

Emotional Greta Thunberg attacks world leaders: "How dare you?"

I was moved by this brief clip, and unless you have a cold, hard place where your heart is supposed to be, your were too. But, it was a bit of an act to get people to hear some of the hard data in the rest of her speech, much needed information that almost never made it into broadcast media.

Without the added effect of her Swedish accent or even her long braided hair . . . not yet at least, though if barber shops don't open again soon, I suppose it could happen, I would like to share a bit of the rest of her speech, it is longer than a normal quote but it is important:

For more than 30 years the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away, and come here saying that you're doing enough when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.

The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees (Celsius) and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO2 out of the air with technologies that barely exist. So, a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us – we who have to live with the consequences.

To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degrees global temperature rise – the best odds given by the (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) – the world had 420 gigatons of CO2 left to emit back on Jan. 1, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.

How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just “business as usual” and some technical solutions? With today’s emissions levels, that remaining CO2 budget will be entirely gone within less than eight and a half years.

There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable and you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.

We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.

I realize that was a lot of numbers and that’s why such important information doesn’t make it into TV news soundbites, but my favorite transplant to America who manages to clearly tell us who we are in plain language, John Oliver, boils our environmental situation down for us: One in four Americans is skeptical about climate change, who cares? That doesn’t matter. You don’t need people’s opinions on a fact. You might as well have a poll asking which number is bigger, 5 or 15? Or do owls exist? Or are there hats?

Human activity is making the earth uninhabitable to humans and if we don’t want to die, then we have to wake up to the facts and change.

So, yes, Greta, change is coming, though the change we have seen in recent years has been all change in the wrong direction. You may recall that I spoke out against the Paris Climate accords years ago, not because, like Trump, I was opposed to its meager goals. I was opposed to it because it did not go nearly far enough to save the planet and anything that falls short of saving the planet is not worth discussing.

Climate Change Debate: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)

So, Greta, I do believe that change is coming but it may come when people like you are elected members of government, a time when Donald Trump and Joe Biden, as well as Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and probably Roger Ray are all decomposing in some iteration of Memorial Gardens somewhere, but change is coming. We can be sure of that because change must come, or humanity will poison itself out of existence. And remember, those gospel Easter stories are metaphors. We have got to get this right.

The Indian writer and environmental activist, Arundhati Roy, has pointed out that –

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.

Trump is using this pandemic as a smokescreen behind which he is hiding moves to degrade the earth while plundering the public purse. I am reaching a point where I am accepting this insane and criminal conduct in much the same way that I accept that it is the nature of a scorpion to sting and you can hardly expect it to do anything else.

But the pandemic, which has put up a red stop light all around the world, shutting down most travel, tourism, and retail business, is allowing the earth to take a deep breath. For the first time in a century, you can see the fish in the canals of Venice.

We were only in economic “stay at home” orders for a month and the earth began showing us that a miraculous resurrection is possible if we would just learn to behave ourselves.

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## **Grassley, Ernst urge EPA to modernize rulemaking for biogenic carbon emissions**

[https://www.kmaland.com/ag/grassley-ernst-urge-epa-to-modernize-rulemaking-for-biogenic-carbon-emissions/article\\_bce7ccac-0e85-11eb-af43-bfc0733dc224.html](https://www.kmaland.com/ag/grassley-ernst-urge-epa-to-modernize-rulemaking-for-biogenic-carbon-emissions/article_bce7ccac-0e85-11eb-af43-bfc0733dc224.html)

Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network

15 Oct 2020

(Washington, D.C.) -- Iowa Senators Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst – along with 12 of their Senate colleagues – have sent a letter urging the EPA to modernize its rulemaking for biogenic carbon emissions.

In a conference call with farm reporters this week, Senator Grassley said they are seeking a “common-sense” clarification that would align EPA policy with the biogenic emissions standards applied by every other regulatory authority worldwide.

“The letter asks for EPA to issue a rule to classify emissions from biogenic sources differently than from fossil fuels,” Grassley said. “While burning fossil fuels actually releases carbon that has been locked up for millions of years in the ground, a burning biomass emits carbon that will be reabsorbed as part of the natural carbon cycle.”

“Every other regulatory body in the world, besides our country, recognizes these differences,” Grassley continued. “This kind of change would remove a heck of a lot of red tape at the EPA and would allow more products to be made from plant-based products and materials.”

Joining Grassley and Ernst in sending the letter to the EPA are Republican Senators Deb Fischer (Nebraska), John Thune (South Dakota), Todd Young (Indiana), Mike Braun (Indiana), Richard Burr (North Carolina), Kevin Cramer (North Dakota), Mike Rounds (South Dakota), John Hoeven (North Dakota), Jerry Moran (Kansas), Pat Roberts (Kansas), Roy Blunt (Missouri), and Josh Hawley (Missouri).

“Senator Ernst has been a leader in removing red tape that can help add value to Iowa’s farm economy,” Grassley said. “I thank Senator Ernst for her leadership on this. I’m glad to join her. I hope EPA will recognize the difference in emissions in their rulemaking and get the United States lined up with other countries that do it entirely different than we do”

Grassley says forcing EPA to be consistent with its treatment of biogenic CO2 will boost the US bioeconomy which ultimately helps rural America.

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## **A steady hand on the wheel: We endorse Bill Farmer for the 5th District council seat**

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/editorials/article246284245.html>

BY HERALD LEADER EDITORIAL BOARD

OCTOBER 15, 2020 09:39 AM,

Over the next two years, Lexington will face some of the biggest challenges in its history: An unprecedented budget crisis caused by coronavirus at a time when more people need government services than ever, a huge and troubled renovation of the downtown convention center, the scheduled completion of the EPA consent decree to fix its stormwater problems. The need for steady and experienced hands on deck to help Mayor Linda Gorton is why we are endorsing Bill Farmer in his last run as the 5th District council member.

Challenger Liz Sheehan has done a superlative job at educating herself about the 5th District and many other issues that face Lexington, and we look forward to her continued career in public service. But Farmer deserves a chance to finish his last term as a senior member who deeply understands the city's budget and its governance.

Farmer has supported important city projects, like his decade-long push for a city fund for public art, but he is more than a cheerleader. He made an important statement earlier this year when he stood up to the Lexington Center board, which needed more more money for the \$275 million expansion, saying it was a "great disservice" to the city that officials had not been told earlier that the LCC needed to refinance some bonds on the project. The city could be on the hook for any defaults on that project.

In addition, as chair of the Environmental and Public Works Committee, Farmer has a deep understanding of the \$590 million in sewer and storm water upgrades required under an EPA consent decree to improve water quality. This project is now implementing a costly sewer pipe phase that will require close attention from the city.

Farmer could use more nuance and understanding of the Black Lives Matter movement and the need for police reform, despite his support for it. We hope he will continue to listen on these issues and support the recommendations of the Mayor's Commission for Racial Justice and Equality.

But he also supports more infill in the 5th District, and a closer relationship with the University of Kentucky, which propels many of the development decisions in that area. Most of all, his deep understanding of how Lexington's budget works will help Lexington manage some tough times ahead, making Farmer the right choice for the 5th.

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### **EPA Requires Lanai Oil Co. To Protect Hawaiian Waterways from Oil Spills in Proposed Settlement**

<https://mauinow.com/2020/10/14/epa-requires-lanai-oil-co-to-protect-hawaiian-waterways-from-oil-spills-in-proposed-settlement/>

October 14, 2020, 1:30 PM HST · Updated October 14, 1:30 PM

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a proposed settlement with Lanai Oil Company, Inc. for Clean Water Act violations at its facility on Lana'i Island. Under the agreement, Lanai Oil is required to pay a penalty of \$71,166. EPA believes the penalty will reduce the risk of oil spills from their Lanai Oil's terminal to Lanai's Kaunapali Harbor and the Pacific Ocean.

"It is critical that companies operating near our waterways develop and follow a spill prevention plan," said John Busterud, EPA's Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator. "Our action will help prevent oil spills to Hawai'i's harbors and coastal waters."

The Lana'i facility is located about 200 feet from Kaunapali Harbor. An EPA inspection in November 2018 found that Lanai Oil had violated the Clean Water Act's oil pollution prevention regulations by failing to: review and evaluate the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure plan at least once every five years; conduct integrity testing of the aboveground storage tanks; and permanently close out-of-service aboveground storage tanks.



EPA's oil pollution prevention regulations aim to prevent oil from reaching navigable waters and adjoining shorelines and to ensure containment of oil discharges in the event of a spill. Specific prevention measures include: developing and implementing spill prevention plans; training staff; and installing physical controls to contain and clean up oil spills.

EPA's proposed settlement with Lanai Oil can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/hi/lanai-oil-company-inc-isle-land-hawaii-proposed-settlement-clean-water-act-section-311-class-ii>.

For more information on the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure program, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations>.

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### **Editorial: Legislature must approve new 'waters' authority**

[https://www.capitalpress.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-legislature-must-approve-new-waters-authority/article\\_d50e71e6-0c89-11eb-a99f-57d448a00455.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-legislature-must-approve-new-waters-authority/article_d50e71e6-0c89-11eb-a99f-57d448a00455.html)

15 Oct 2020

When the Obama administration redefined “waters of the United States” in the rules used to enforce the Clean Water Act, it denied the claims of opponents that the Environmental Protection Agency would be able to use them to claim dominion over every puddle and barnyard mudhole.

Now Washington's Department of Ecology has confirmed those fears.

The federal Clean Water Act requires a permit to work in and around anything defined as waters of the U.S.

The EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wrote rules adopted by Obama in 2015 in the hopes of reconciling two separate Supreme Court decisions in cases involving the Clean Water Act. The object was to better define what constitutes “waters of the United States,” which the act gives the federal government authority to regulate.

The 2015 rule extended regulation to isolated bodies of water that have a “significant nexus” with navigable waters of the United States — a significant expansion of federal authority. The rule left it to the bureaucrats to determine that nexus and gave landowners no means of appealing those interpretations without going to court.

That rightly made farmers and ranchers nervous.

The final regulation brought little of the clarity it purported to provide. (The Corps wrote a scathing email to EPA insisting the rule would not withstand a court challenge.)

The Trump administration discarded the Obama rule, limiting federal oversight to territorial seas, navigable rivers, tributaries, lakes, ponds, reservoirs and adjacent wetlands.

Washington Department of Ecology now says it will regulate wetlands, streams and ditches not covered by the Trump administration's definition of the waters of the U.S., effectively retaining the Obama-era clean water rule that was widely opposed by farm groups.

Ecology estimates the Trump rule, finalized in June, withdrew from federal jurisdiction 29% of the state's wetlands and 14% of its streams. Ecology says it will start reviewing projects that might disturb those waters.

“It is a wide definition. There aren't going to be many waters that don't fall under the state,” Ecology spokesman Curt Hart said. “Practically anything is a water of the state.”

Indeed. But at least unlike the Obama administration, Ecology isn't masking its attempt to extend its power over "practically anything."

And again, farmers and ranchers in Washington need to be wary. Luckily, not everyone in state government is on board with a bureaucratic power grab.

Brian Blake, the Democrat in charge of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, has thrown up a red flag. He's opposed to the department claiming authority that he says needs to be granted by the Legislature.

It's unclear whether the Legislature will step in to block Ecology, or whether in the end it would grant the department the authority.

But, we agree with Blake. Bureaucrats should not assume authority that has not been granted by the representatives of the people.

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### **Gulf Coast Sequestration Takes 'Significant Step' Toward Massive Carbon Capture Project**

<https://www.naturalgasintel.com/gulf-coast-sequestration-takes-significant-step-toward-massive-carbon-capture-project/>

BY KEVIN DOBBS

October 15, 2020

Gulf Coast Sequestration (GCS), a Lake Charles, LA-based company created to partner with industrial customers to capture and contain carbon dioxide (CO2) underground, said this week it launched the process to obtain U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval.

The initial step involved filing a detailed technical submission to delineate its Area of Review – an EPA term for the region where underground sources of drinking water might be endangered by the injection of CO2.

"This is a significant step in the company's effort to build and operate the country's premier carbon sequestration project, which is designed to permanently store more than 80 million tons of carbon in deep geologic formations," the company said.

GCS said once completed, its sequestration hub is expected to be the largest geologic carbon capture project in the United States and among the largest in the world. It would have capacity to sequester 2.7 tons of CO2 annually. That is equivalent to removing about 600,000 passenger vehicles from the road every year, the company estimated.

"We have done our homework, and our permit application reflects our commitment to robust environmental compliance," said Gray Stream, president of Matilda Stream Management Inc., the owner of GCS. "We look forward to working with EPA to secure the approvals needed to develop, construct and operate" the project.

Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) – extracting planet-warming greenhouse gas from power plants and other industrial activities – is in its infancy but gaining traction as global energy companies such as [ExxonMobil](#) and [Chevron Corp.](#) try to achieve net-zero emissions over the next few decades.

"The recent expansion of U.S. federal [tax credits](#) (45Q), which provide \$35 or \$50/ton of emissions sequestered depending on the storage location, combined with the possibility for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) revenues in

some locations, have created a material new incentive for CCS,” the Brattle Group consultancy said in a recent report.

“In the future, the economics of CCS are likely to become more favorable, as the value of emission-free dispatchable energy in deeply decarbonized systems, which CCS can provide, is likely to be very large,” said the report’s authors, led by Frank C. Graves and Kasparas Spokas.

They found that the value of CCS for utilities “will increase because, as renewable penetration becomes material, the marginal costs of decarbonization with only wind, solar and battery storage can become very high.” CCS may also help supply decarbonization in settings where renewables are not as abundantly available.

A host of U.S. natural gas and power utilities, as well as state and local governments, have announced goals to achieve net-zero or near net-zero carbon emissions over the next 25-30 years.

Democratic presidential candidate Joseph R. Biden Jr. announced a \$2 trillion plan in July targeting a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035. President Trump has largely dismissed the effects of carbon dioxide, deferring to the private sector efforts to limit emissions and continuing to champion broad deregulation policies.

Located in Southwest Louisiana between the Sabine River and Lake Charles, the planned GCS facility would be close to one of the nation’s busiest industrial corridors, with several large refiners and manufacturers. The company said it would develop the sequestration hub on a contiguous landholding where it controls both the surface and subsurface rights.

“By providing safe and secure storage for carbon dioxide, GCS will assist industrial customers in achieving their sustainability goals,” GCS principal Benjamin Heard said. “Working together, we can help to steer the United States toward a more economically and environmentally sustainable future.”

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### **Trump makes water demand of farms priority for new office**

<https://www.morningagclips.com/trump-makes-water-demand-of-farms-priority-for-new-office/>

PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 15, 2020

The first priority set out by the executive order is increasing dam storage and other water storage

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday created what he called a “subcabinet” for federal water issues, with a mandate that includes water-use changes sought by corporate farm interests and oil and gas.

An executive order from Trump put Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler in charge of the interagency water body.

Establishment of a water subcabinet “will streamline decision-making processes” across federal agencies, the EPA said in a statement.

The first priority set out by the executive order is increasing dam storage and other water storage, long a demand of farmers and farm interests in the West in particular. That includes California’s Westlands Water District, the nation’s largest agricultural water district. Westlands was one of Bernhardt’s main lobbying and legal clients before his appointment to the Interior Department under Trump.

Asked about whether the move would benefit his old client or represent a conflict for Bernhardt, Interior Department spokesman Nicholas Goodwin said, “The Secretary is resolute in upholding his legal and ethical responsibilities.”

The Interior Department has said previously Bernhardt follows ethics rules and the law in federal government actions involving the water district and other past clients.

Environmental groups say the amount of water sought by corporate farming would leave habitats and wildlife without enough water to survive.

Another of the many directives for the new interagency is implementing a water reuse plan. Oil and gas companies have supported one aspect of the plan that could allow them to dispose of briny, often chemical-laden oilfield wastewater on crops or in aquifers.

—By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press